

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, or listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of receiving a bitstream that is divided into units encoding a moving picture and includes a stream header indicating how the units are to be decoded, comprising the steps of:

- estimating contents of the stream header from contents of the units;
- generating estimated stream-header information; and
- decoding the units according to the estimated stream-header information before the stream header is received,

wherein at least one unit among the units includes a unit header, the method further comprising the steps of:

- analyzing the unit header according to the estimated stream-header information;
- generating analyzed unit-header information;
- checking the analyzed unit-header information for analysis errors; and
- modifying the estimated stream-header information when an analysis error is found.

Claim 2 cancelled.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- checking the decoded units for decoding errors; and
- modifying the estimated stream-header information when a decoding error is found.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

- decoding a single one of the units repeatedly, if a decoding error is found; and
- modifying the estimated stream-header information each time said single one of the units is decoded.

Claims 5-10 cancelled.